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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, December 8, 1988 -- The number of trailers and/or containers carried in piggyback service on major U.S. railroads through the first 47 weeks of this year has topped the record set through all of 1987, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Through 47 weeks of 1988, a total of 5,167,370 trailers and/or containers were carried, topping the 52-week total of 5,155,737 carried last year and making 1988 the seventh straight record year.

The 47-week total was 4.0 percent above the comparable period of 1987. Piggyback traffic for the week ended November 26 totaled 91,630 trailers and/or containers, down 5.3 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

Meanwhile, overall freight traffic carried during the week ended December 3 totaled an estimated 19.9 billion ton-miles, up 0.9 percent from the 19.7 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987.

Cumulative volume for the first 48 weeks of 1988 was an estimated 923.3 billion ton-miles carried, up 5.9 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended December 3 totaled 447,620, up 1.1 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 25.4 percent higher than the preceding holiday week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 1.6 percent in the West and 0.6 percent in the East.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 11 of the 20 major commodity groups decreased. Loadings of metallic ores were up 4,285 cars (24.9 percent), and motor vehicles and equipment loadings increased by 2,159 cars (10.0 percent). Grain loadings were down by 4,397 cars (13.2 percent). All 20 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 12/3/88:

	Loadings in Week ended December 3, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	28,878	D	4,397	13.2	I	9,149	46.4
Other farm products	3,929	D	162	4.0	I	292	8.0
Metallic ores	21,516	I	4,285	24.9	I	2,226	11.5
Coal	128,763	I	814	0.6	I	18,461	16.7
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	15,541	I	467	3.1	I	4,342	38.8
Nonmetallic minerals	10,483	D	1,058	9.2	I	2,966	39.5
Grain mill products	11,430	D	274	2.3	I	2,036	21.7
Food and kindred products	11,676	I	29	0.2	I	2,574	28.3
Primary forest products	10,146	D	1,043	9.3	I	3,274	47.6
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,358	D	511	6.5	I	1,825	33.0
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,704	D	438	3.3	I	1,553	13.9
Chemicals and allied products	30,808	I	1,386	4.7	I	7,975	34.9
Petroleum products	5,549	I	697	14.4	I	1,344	32.0
Stone, clay and glass products	11,250	I	828	7.9	I	2,956	35.6
Coke	5,866	D	215	3.5	I	382	7.0
Metals and products	10,089	D	629	5.9	I	924	10.1
Motor vehicles and equipment	23,730	I	2,159	10.0	I	7,707	48.1
Waste and scrap materials	9,512	D	467	4.7	I	2,732	40.3
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,007	D	560	21.8	I	321	19.0
All other carloads	86,385	I	3,816	4.6	I	17,603	25.6
Total Cars Loaded	447,620	I	4,727	1.1	I	90,642	25.4
Corresponding week of 1987	442,893						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (48 weeks)	20,504,604	19,660,708	I 4.3
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
47 weeks ended November 26	903.4	852.3	I 6.0
Week ended December 3	19.9	19.7	I 0.9
48 Weeks cumulative	923.3	872.0	I 5.9

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